

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1043

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: BURGER RETURNS HIS MANDATE

REF: THE HAGUE 1549

1. SUMMARY: CABINET OF THE QUEEN ANNOUNCED AT NOON APRIL 5 FORMATEUR BURGER HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE QUEEN WHO HAD ASSENTED TO HIS REQUEST TO BE RELIEVED OF HIS MANDATE. ALL PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS MEETING IN SPECIAL SESSIONS THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 5) TO DETERMINE WHAT TO TELL QUEEN WHEN HM ASKS FLOOR LEADERS FOR ADVICE ON WHERE TO GO FROM HERE. BURGER' S RECOMMENDATION (IF ANY) TO QUEEN UNKNOWN BUT SOME POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION ARE: (A) QUEEN GIVES DEN UYL MANDATE " TO FORM A GOVERNMENT," (LEFT WING MINORITY), (B) QUEEN APPOINTS NEW FORMATEUR FROM EITHER LEFT OR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC RANKS WHO WOULD WORK FOR " GENUINE EXTRA- PARLIAMENTARY GOVT" OR ESTORATION OF OLD FOUR OR FIVE PARTY COALITION, (C) QUEEN REFUSES TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF CARETAKER GOVT AND NEW ELECTIONS HELD LATE THIS YEAR.
END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF SILENCE, FORMATEUR BURGER SAW QUEEN AT 9:30 AM, APRIL 5 . AT APPROXIMATELY NOON CABINET OF QUEEN ANNOUNCED
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HM HAD ASSENTED TO BURGER' S REQUEST TO RELIEVE HIM OF HIS MANDATE TO FORM A CABINET WHICH COULD DEPEND ON " SUFFICIENT SUPPORT" IN THE PARLIAMENT. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY QUEEN' S CABINET GAVE NO DETAILS ON WHAT, IF ANY, ADVICE BURGER HAD GIVEN HM ON WHAT SHOULD BE HER NEXT STEP.

3. LEADING PARLIAMENTARY FIGURES WERE ON RADIO BY 1:00 PM LAMENTING FAILURE OF BURGER' S EFFORT. LABOR FLOOR LEADER DEN UYL TERMED DEVELOPMENT " DISAPPOINTING" BUT SAID EFFORT WAS DOOMED MIDDLE OF LAST WEEK WHEN KVP REFUSED TO PROVIDE MINISTERS FOR DEN UYL GOVT. KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESSEN SAID BURGER EFFORT HAD FAILED WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT DEN UYL WOULD OR COULD NOT MAKE PROGRAMMATIC CONCESSIONS ANYONE IN MINORITY POSITION POSITION SHOULD EXCEPT TO MAKE. CHU LEADER TILANUS, WHO SAID BURGER' S DECISION HAD BEEN CORRECT BUT SOMEWHAT OVERDUE, EXPECTED QUEEN WOULD WOULD SOON CONSULT WITH FLOOR LEADERS. CHU WILL RECOMMEND WHAA HE TERMED " PROGRAM CABINET." PPR' S DE GAAY FORTMAN, JR. TERMED CURRENT SITUATION " FRIGHTFUL" AND ATTRIBUTED BURGER' S FAILURE TO KVP' S UNWILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE MINISTERS FOR DEN UYL GOVT. LIBERAL FLOOR LEADER HANS WIEGEL, WHO HAS BEEN SILENT FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS, REITERATED VV D' S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY IN NEW GOVT.

4. COMMENT: BURGER' S DECISION TO RETURN MANDATE, WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR SOME DAYS, NONETHELESS CAME AS " SURPRISE" TO POLITICAL LEADERS WHO PROBABLY FIND IT HARD TO ACCEPT FACT THAT AFTER 128 DAYS FORMATION SEEMS BACK AT SQUARE 1. MAJOR QUESTION NOW OF COURSE IS WHAT WILL BE NEXT STEP. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, QUEEN COULD APPOINT DEN UYL FORMATUER WITH MANDATE SIMPLY TO " FORM GOVERNMENT." IN VIEW LAST FOUR MONTHS AND DEN UYL' S RATHER DEJECTED TONE THIS AFTERNOON, IT SEEMS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER HE EXPECTS PARLIAMENTARY FLOOR LEADERS WILL RECOMMEND QUEEN ACCEPT THIS ADVICE IF THIS INDEED WHAT BURGER SAID. BURGER EFFORT HAVING COME A CROPPER, THERE IS AGAIN DISCUSSION OF EFFORT TO FORM " GENUINE EXTRA- PARLIAMENTARY CABINET" COMPOSED FOR MOST PART OF NON- POLITICAL FIGURES WHICH WOULD BE ABLE TO RUEL FOR YEAR AND A HALF OR TWO YEARS AND PERMT " COOLING OFF PERIOD." PROF STEENKAMP OF KVP, INFORMATEUR FOR BIESHUEVEL CABINET, IS PRINCIPLE PROPONENT THIS SOLUTION. THERE IS ALSO RENEWED DISCUSSION OF GLUING TOGETHER OLD FIVE OR FOUR PARTY COALITION. EXPECTATION WOULD BE THAT INORDINATE LENGTH OF PRESENT FORMATION WOULD MOTIVATE OLD FIVE OR FOUR TO MOVE QUICKLY ON FORMING NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COALITION. AT THIS STAGE OF GAME, HOWEVER, NO ONE SURE OF
EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPEEN. KVP DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER WESTERTERP
TOLD EMBOFFS APR 5, AS HE WAS RUSHING OFF TO SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP MEETING, THAT NO ONE REALLY KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT.
IT NEED HARDLY BE POINTED OUT THAT 128 DAYS AFTER NOV 29 ELECTIONS
THIS IS SAD COMMENTARY ON STATE OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE
NETHERLANDS.
MIDDENDORF

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